

## NIDA's Opportunities for Special Populations

### **Goals** ———

NIDA's Special Populations Office (SPO) has two goals: (1) to ensure that issues related to minority health disparities are adequately and appropriately represented in the extramural research programs; and (2) to increase the number of under-represented racial/ethnic minority scholars participating in drug abuse research. SPO's programs for achieving these goals follow:

#### ***Special Populations Research Seminar Series***

This series provides drug abuse grants development to individual minority and female researchers, in intensive one-on-one and small group sessions.

#### ***Diversity Supplements***

These supplements are research awards made to individuals from racial/ethnic groups underrepresented in the sciences, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from certain disadvantaged backgrounds. Support is provided for them to gain research experiences by working with current NIDA grantees.

#### ***Minority Institutions' Drug Abuse Research Program (MIDARP)***

This program provides support to eligible minority and minority-serving institutions to increase their capacity to conduct drug abuse research. Faculty, student, and research development plans are major components of the program.

#### ***National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse***

This network is dedicated to improving the health of Hispanics by (1) increasing the amount and quality of interdisciplinary translational research on drug abuse and (2) by fostering the development of Hispanic scientists in drug abuse research. For details on this program, visit [www.nhsn.med.miami.edu](http://www.nhsn.med.miami.edu).

#### ***Grant Writing and Proposal Development Assistance***

New researchers can access grant-writing tutorials and information on research design through [www.theresearchassistant.com](http://www.theresearchassistant.com).

## **Summer Research with NIDA**

This program introduces high school and undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to drug abuse research (biomedical and behavioral sciences) through research placements with NIDA grantees.

For more information on these programs, visit [www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/SPO/SPOHome.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/SPO/SPOHome.html), call NIDA's Special Populations Office at 301-443-0441, or write to 6001 Executive Blvd., Rm. 4216, MSC 9567, Bethesda, MD 20892-9567.

## **Minority Recruitment and Training Program (MRTP)**

The NIDA IRP Minority Recruitment & Training Program (MRTP) is an intramural program that provides training opportunities for students from presently underrepresented groups who are interested in the scientific basis of drug

abuse. The goal of this program is to expose students to the realities of research, from experimental design to data analysis, interpretation, and presentation. In this program, students gain basic science and/or clinical laboratory experience, attend student seminars, and participate in a summer poster presentation. In addition, the program sometimes supports students who have recently graduated from college for a period of one year while they make a decision about future career plans. This program is operated by NIDA's Intramural Research Program in Baltimore, Maryland. Among other activities, summer research placements with NIDA intramural scientists are available for students and faculty. For more information on MRTP, contact Dr. Jean Lud Cadet at 410-550-2732 or visit [www.drugabuse.gov/DIR/brochure.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/DIR/brochure.html).

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ON DRUG ABUSE

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